

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 /079 W
-----110835Z 021569 /13

P R 110758Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4239
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0453

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, LY
SUBJ: LIBYA EXECUTES "FIVE" TERRORISTS

1. LIBYAN PRESS, RADIO AND TV GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE (CARRIED
FBIS APRIL 8) TO CONVICTION BY "PEOPLE'S COURT" AND
SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC EXECUTION IN BENGHAZI ON APRIL 7 OF FIVE
INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING ONE EGYPTIAN FOR WHAT IS DESCRIBED
AS "CASE OF BURNING OF CHURCH" AND "CIA AGENT SADAT'S
TERRORIST SABOTAGE OF BENGHAZI PORT AND DESTRUCTION OF
STATUE OF LATE ABDUL JAMAL NASSER." ONE INDIVIDUAL, ALSO
AN EGYPTIAN, RECEIVED A 15-YEAR SENTENCE WHILE EIGHT OTHERS,
PRESUMABLY LIBYANS, WERE ACQUITTED.

2. WE BELIEVE TWO INCIDENTS ARE IN FACT INVOLVED.
"BURNING OF CHURCH" MOST LIKELY REFERS TO STUDENT
DISTURBANCES IN BENGHAZI IN JANUARY OF 1976 WHICH
CULMINATED IN STUDENT ATTACK ON HQ OF ARAB SOCIALIST UNION
BUILDING WHICH, PRIOR TO REVOLUTION WAS BENGHAZI'S
PRINCIPAL CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL. PORT EXPLOSION AND
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DESTRUCTION OF STATUE, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE,
OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER 1976 AT TIME OF CELEBRATION OF
7TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBYAN REVOLUTION.

3. MEDIA CLAIMS SABOTAGE OPERATIONS WERE ORGANIZED
BY EGYPTIAN RELATIONS OFFICE (CONSULATE) IN BENGHAZI
WHICH VIOLATED DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND USED DIPLOMATIC

POUCHES TO BRING IN EXPLOSIVES UNDER DIRECTION OF
TERRORIST EGYPTIAN CONSUL MUHAMMED RIDA." REPORTS
FROM BENGHAZI INDICATE ANTI-EGYPTIAN DEMONSTRATIONS
BY LIBYAN STUDENTS OCCURRED APRIL 9. APPARENTLY
CONSULATE BUILDING WAS BROKEN INTO AND FILES AND
FURNITURE WERE DAMAGED. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF
INJURIES.

4. EXECUTIONS COINCIDED WITH APRIL 7, A NEW LIBYAN
HOLIDAY, COMMEMORATING LAST YEAR'S PURGING OF
UNIVERSITIES OF "REACTIONARY ELEMENTS BY STUDENT
REVOLUTIONARIES." FORMER PM JALLOUD SPOKE AT LENGTH
ON OCCASION AT TRIPOLI UNIVERSITY. JALLOUD URGED
STUDENTS "TO PRACTICE REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE WITH
METHOD AND STRONG AND DEEP FAITH PROCEEDING FROM
THEIR REVOLUTIONARY LEGITIMACY FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENT
OF PEOPLE'S POWER." STUDENTS, SAID JALLOUD, MUST BE
SO REVOLUTIONARY THAT AFTER SCHOOL HOURS THEY MUST
CONTINUE REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES "TO CONFRONT
ENEMIES OF THE MASSES."

5. TEMPO AND VITRIOLIC TONE OF ANTI-SADAT MEDIA
ATTACK HAS BEEN ON THE INCREASE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS,
COINCIDENT WITH SADAT'S U.S. VISIT AND APRIL 7
CELEBRATION. DISTINCTION BETWEEN BROTHERLY EGYPTIAN
PEOPLE AND "AGENT REGIME" CONTINUES TO BE MAINTAINED.
HOWEVER, CASTIGATION OF SADAT FOR CAUSING 250 THOUSAND
EGYPTIANS LIVING AND WORKING IN LIBYA TO BE VIEWED
WITH INCREASING SUSPICION IS A BIT OMINOUS.
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CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION LOCALLY THAT PUBLICITY
GIVEN TO EXECUTION OF FIVE INTENDED TO DIVERT ATTENTION
FROM EXECUTION OF 22 OFFICERS A FEW DAYS EARLIER WHICH
IS STILL CURRENT TOPIC IN TRIPOLI.
CARLE

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